

All About the Wolf

It can smell an animal more than one mile away. It can hear another animal more than three miles away. It can run through the snow for 25 miles without resting. It can even go for many days without eating.

What animal is this? It is the wolf.

A wolf has a bushy tail and looks like a large dog. Like dogs, wolves are covered with hair called fur. A wolf's fur is thicker than a dog's fur. This thick fur keeps the wolf warm when it is very cold outside.

You can see wolves in a zoo, of course. But most wolves live in the wild. Gray wolves like places that have a lot of snow. That is why Canada has about 40,000 gray wolves. Some wolves even live near the North Pole.



Most wolves are gray. Some wolves are red or black. The wolves that live near the North Pole are white.

Some wolves weigh as much as 175 pounds. A very large wolf can be more than six feet long from its nose to the end of its tail. But most wolves are not big at all. They do not weigh more than about 40 pounds.

Many people think that wolves live alone. This is not true. Wolves live in groups. The groups are called packs. Most packs have from 5 to 12 wolves.

Wolf packs are like families. The older wolves take care of the baby wolves, which are called pups. When the pups grow up, they start their own packs.

The strongest wolves lead the pack. They tell other wolves where to go and what to do. They tell them what to hunt. When a wolf pack travels, the strongest wolves are always in front.

The wolf pack must work together to stay alive. Most of the time wolves hunt large animals like deer and moose. But wolves also hunt small animals like rabbits and mice.

Wolves are very good hunters. This is because they can hear and smell very well. A wolf's hearing is so good that it can hear a mouse moving under the snow.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3

LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form A

Sometimes a pack will hunt an animal for many hours. The pack may even follow the animal for days. Then all the wolves in the pack unite to attack and kill the animal.

After the kill, the wolves eat as much as they can. Each wolf eats from 10 to 20 pounds of meat. The wolves may bury pieces of meat in the ground. Then they come back later to eat the meat.

Wolves do more than just hunt. They are not always fierce. Wolves love to play. They run, jump, and chase each other.

It's easy to tell how a wolf feels. The wolf's face tells how it feels. When a wolf is happy, its mouth is open. Its tongue hangs out. When a wolf is angry, it shows its teeth.



Like a dog, a wolf also barks. But wolves are best known for their long, loud howl. Why do wolves howl? They howl to one another in the morning to say hello. They howl to find one another. Wolves howl when they need help. They also howl to warn others about trouble.

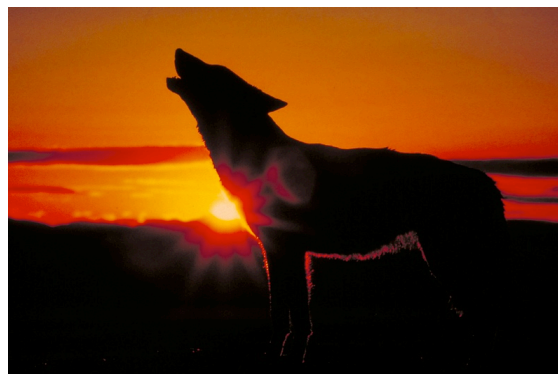
Many people are very frightened by wolves. People may feel this way because wolves in fables and fairy tales attack people. In real life, a wolf almost never attacks a person. Wolves are afraid of people. When a wolf sees a person, it runs away.

Wolves avoid people, but people do not stay away from wolves. People move on to land where wolves live. That land is now covered with ranches and farms. There is less and less space where wolves can live. More important, there are fewer wild animals for the wolf to hunt.

People also kill many wolves. People fear the hungry wolves might eat their farm animals.

Today, wolves are beginning to be seen in more places. Not long ago, there were no wolves in Yellowstone National Park. All the wolves had been killed. Now park workers are bringing wolves back to the park.

Maybe one day you will go to Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. Late at night, you might hear loud howls. Do not be afraid. It is only some wolves. They are having a good talk!



<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form A</p>

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage “All About the Wolf”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Why did the author write “All About the Wolf”?
 - A. to teach readers why they should be afraid of wolves
 - B. to tell readers some surprising facts about wolves
 - C. to thrill readers with an article about fierce wolves
 - D. to entertain readers with a funny article about wolves

2. With which statement would the author of “All About the Wolf” MOST likely agree?
 - A. Wolves would be better off in zoos.
 - B. Park workers should not bring wolves back to the park.
 - C. Wolves howl for many different many reasons.
 - D. Wolves make good house pets.

3. Why does the author include information about the wolves’ ability to hear and smell?
 - A. to teach readers how a wolf finds its way through the woods
 - B. to make readers aware of how the wolf’s’ senses help it hunt
 - C. to tell readers why wolves hunt large animals like deer
 - D. to inform readers about how wolf packs work together

4. The author wants the reader to think that wolves are
 - A. scary animals.
 - B. lonely hunters.
 - C. like dangerous dogs.
 - D. interesting creatures.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form A</p>

5. Why does the author begin the article by asking the reader to guess what animal he is writing about?
- A. to make the article more informative
 - B. to appeal to the reader's sense of humor
 - C. to make the reader curious enough to read on
 - D. to give as many facts as possible in the first paragraph

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form A</p>

Answer Key – All About the Wolf

LA.A.2.2.2: The student identifies the author's purpose as stated or strongly implied in simple text (including recognizing when a text is intended primarily to persuade).

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